

## **REMARKS**

By the present amendment, Applicant has: i) amended Claims 1, 14, and 19; ii) canceled Claims 2-4, 9, 15, and 16; and iii) added Claims 21-25. Claims 1, 5-8, 10-14, and 17-25 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 14, and 19 are independent claims.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the personal interview held December 7, 2007. The present response summarizes the understandings reached and substance of the interview. At the interview, Applicant's representative discussed the Office Communication dated November 30, 2007. The Office Communication stated that: 1) Applicant's amendment of October 18, 2007 presented only claims to a non-elected species; 2) Applicant had filed the instant application under the accelerated examination program and is therefore not entitled to an extension of time and must file any response electronically; 3) the instant application contains two species, namely Species A drawn to Figs 2-4, 6, and 7; and Species B drawn to Fig. 5; and 4) Applicant had elected Species A by original presentation of claims and that all amended claims are drawn to non-elected species. Applicant's representative noted the following facts in regard to the Office Communication and the Examiner indicated an agreement with these facts:

- Applicant's amendment was filed October 10, 2007 and NOT October 18, 2007. Unless the Examiner is referring to another paper in the application, Applicant will assume that the Examiner is referring to the amendment filed October 10, 2007. The Examiner agreed that the

Office Communication meant to recite the amendment filed October 10, 2007.

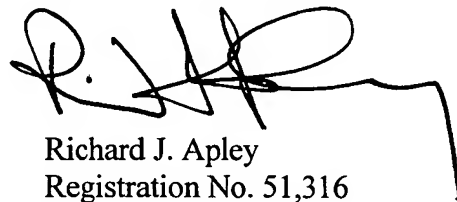
- The instant application was NOT filed under the accelerated examination program and is therefore NOT bound by that program's requirements. The Examiner agreed that reference to the accelerated examination program was inadvertently cited in the Office Communication.
- The instant application depicted three (3) embodiments in Fig. 5; namely Fig. 5A, 5B, and 5C. The Examiner agreed that the reference to Fig. 5 was meant to refer to the three embodiments depicted in Figs. 5A, 5B, and 5C.
- The instant application had an original claim (Claim 8) drawn to Fig. 5B and this claimed embodiment received two examinations. Claim 8 was presented in the amendment filed on October 10, 2007 as an "original" claim. Therefore, at a minimum, claim 8 is a proper claim that should have been examined and not coupled with the Examiner's statement that "...claims 1, 5-8, 10-14, 17-20 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention." The Examiner agreed that claim 8 was originally presented and received an examination on the merits.
- Applicant and the Examiner noted that regardless of the designation of the embodiments, the Examiner examined and generated an Office Action on Figs. 2-4, 5B, 6, and 7.

- Assuming the Examiner has required election among the inventions of Figs. 5A, 5B, and 5C, Applicant elects to prosecute the invention of Fig. 5B, namely, Claims 1, 5-8, 10-14, 17-20, 22, and 24. Claims 21, 23 and 25 stand withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species.

Independent claims 1, 14, and 19 have been similarly amended by deleting the term "elliptical". The aforementioned claims are now generic to Figs. 5A, 5B, and 5C by reciting the non-circular mouth. The specification supports this description on pages 12 and 13. Original claim 8 specifically defines this non-circular shape as a "trumpet bell" (as depicted in Fig. 5B). New claims 22 and 24 are similar to claim 8 and are directed to elected species Fig. 5B. Claims 21, 23, and 25 are directed to the elliptical shape and will, presumably, be withdrawn by the Examiner.

It is parenthetically noted that the Rollins reference used in the rejection does not possess a non-circular mouth nor a trumpet bell shaped mouth. This argument was fully discussed in Applicant's amendment filed on October 10, 2007 and incorporated herein by reference.

Respectfully submitted,



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RJA: dht